

Arkansas

Catfish Report



Arkansas Field Office

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National Agricultural Statistics Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture

10800 Financial Centre Parkway, Suite 110
Little Rock, AR 72211-3543
(501) 228-9926
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/ar>

This report contains the results from the Catfish Growers Survey conducted during the first half of January 2006. All known active Arkansas catfish producers were contacted, and provided January 1 inventory and acreage data, and sales data for the previous year. These estimates are also posted on our home page at the Internet address above, and a more detailed national report is available at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>. Thanks to all who responded to the questionnaire and/or to the interview for the survey.

Foodsize Catfish Inventory Down 4 Percent

Arkansas catfish producers had 59.1 million foodsize fish on January 1, 2006, down 4 percent from a year ago. The number of large foodsize totaled 1.7 million down 15 percent; medium foodsize decreased 5 percent to 18.4 million, while small foodsize at 39.0 million was down 4 percent from January 1, 2005. Arkansas catfish growers had sales of \$77.6 million during 2005, up 16 percent from 2004. As of January 1, 2006, the water surface acres being used for catfish production totaled 32,600 acres, up 4 percent from a year earlier. The number of operations decreased to 132 from the 153 in January 1, 2005.

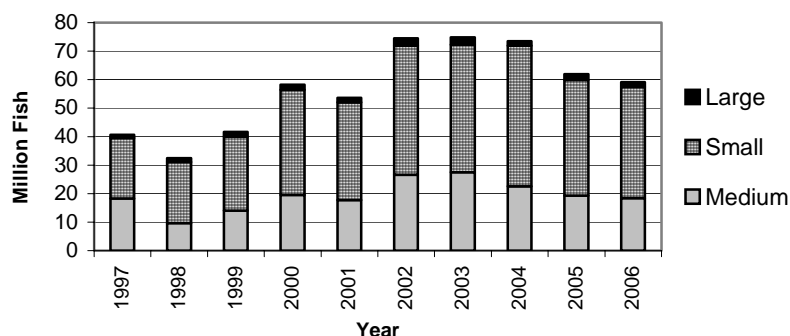
Arkansas Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size, January 1, 2005-2006

Type size	Number			Total Live Weight			Average Live Weight per Fish	
	2005	2006	%Chg.	2005	2006	%Chg.	2005	2006
	1,000		Percent	1,000 Pounds		Percent	Pounds	
Broodfish	110	110	0	540	530	-2	4.9	4.8
Foodsize Total	61,930	59,130	-4	83,730	79,300	-5	-	-
Large	2,030	1,730	-15	7,030	6,000	-15	3.5	3.5
Medium	19,300	18,400	-5	35,600	35,300	-1	1.8	1.9
Small	40,600	39,000	-4	41,100	38,000	-8	1.0	1.0
Stockers Total	95,400	100,600	+5	21,550	20,100	-7	Pounds per 1,000 Fish	
Large	39,200	47,400	+21	15,400	15,100	-2	393	319
Small	56,200	53,200	-5	6,150	5,000	-19	109.4	94.0
Fingerlings	131,000	184,000	+41	3,500	5,200	+49	26.7	28.3

Definitions Used for Catfish Production

• Broodfish: Fish kept for egg production, including males, 3 to 10 lbs., or 4 – 6 years of age	
• Large foodsize: Over 3 lbs. per fish.	• Large Stockers: Over 180 to 750 lbs. per 1,000 fish.
• Medium foodsize: Over 1 ½ to 3lbs. per fish.	• Small Stockers: Over 60 to 180 lbs. per 1,000 fish.
• Small foodsize: Over ¾ to 1 ½ lbs. per fish	• Fingerlings: 60 lbs. and less per 1,000 fish.

Arkansas Foodsize Catfish Inventory by Size, January 1, 1997-2006



Arkansas Catfish Sales by Size Category, 2004-2005¹

	Number of Fish		Live Weight Sold				Average price per Pound		Total Sales	
			Average Per Fish		Total					
Size Category	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000		Pounds		1,000 Pounds		Dollars		1,000 Dollars	
Foodsize	58,000	64,000	1.8	1.6	103,000	104,000	0.62	0.71	63,860	73,840
	Pounds per 1,000									
Fingerlings	60,700	121,000	16.5	10.4	1,000	1,260	1.84	1.87	1,840	2,356
Total	118,700*	185,000*	-	-	104,000*	105,260*			66,618**	77,556**

¹ Broodfish and stocker data not published. *Broodfish and stockers not included. **Total sales include broodfish and stockers.

Number of Operations and Water Surface Acres, January 1, 2005-2006

Item	Unit	Arkansas			United States		
		2005	2006	%Chg	2005	2006	%Chg
Catfish Operations, Jan. 1	<i>Number</i>	153	132	-14	1,158	1,035	-11
Water Surface Acres Used for							
Catfish Production¹	<i>Acres</i>	31,500	32,600	+4	173,590	170,370	-2
For Foodsize	<i>Acres</i>	27,400	27,500	0	145,055	138,820	-4
For Fingerlings	<i>Acres</i>	3,300	4,300	+30	21,495	22,750	+6
For Broodfish	<i>Acres</i>	550	570	+4	3,925	4,780	+22

¹ During January 1 to June 30. Current year data for intended utilization.